

North Star Schoolhouse (Public School No. 30)
Northeast corner of North Star and Henderson Roads
Hockessin Vicinity (North Star, Mill Creek Hundred)
New Castle County
Delaware

HABS No. DEL-163

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

NORTH STAR SCHOOLHOUSE (PUBLIC SCHOOL NO. 30)

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Location: Northeast corner of North Star and Henderson Roads, Hockessin Vicinity (North Star, Mill Creek Hundred), New Castle County, Delaware.

Present Owner: Alexis I. du Pont School District, Hillside Road, Greenville, Delaware.

Present Occupant and Use: Abandoned school.

Statement of Significance: A picturesque mid-nineteenth century one-room schoolhouse of quaint local character.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Erected as Public School No. 30 in 1847, the structure and the land later passed into possession of Henry C. Mitchell, who owns the neighboring farm. In 1964 the Alexis I. du Pont School District purchased the land for a possible new school site.
2. Date of erection: 1847.

B. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: Records of Public School No. 30, Alexis I. du Pont School District.

Prepared by William B. Bassett
Architectural Historian
National Park Service
June 1965
in co-operation with Robert L. Raley, AIA

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: A one-room schoolhouse of picturesque rural character.
2. Condition of fabric: Ruinous.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: One-and-a-half stories; thirty feet wide by twenty-nine feet and four inches deep.

2. Foundations: Stone rubble and mortar.
3. Wall construction: Eighteen-inch stone rubble and mortar with whitewashed concrete stucco facing.
4. Porches: Traces of a gable roof line over the main entrance indicate that there probably was a protective roof over the front door.
5. Chimneys: None.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: One central doorway 7'-1" x 3'-8" with a stone sill (20" x 54" x 4" thick). Remains of narrow double-paneled wooden doors remain.
 - b. Windows and shutters: Two-paneled solid wooden shutters formerly on all window openings. Front - two forty by fifty-eight inch openings with windows missing (probably with double-hung wooden sash). Rear - two forty by fifty-eight inch openings blocked in where windows might once have been. Sides - three (each side) thirty-five by fifty-four inch openings with windows missing (probably double-hung wooden sash).
 - c. Vent holes: Small nine inch wide by eleven inch high vent holes in masonry foundation under front windows and under two side windows.
7. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof with wooden shingles on roof lath over 3" x 5" wooden roof joists at 30" on center.
 - b. Cornice: A four-course corbeled brick cornice with the bottom course composed of all headers with alternate headers projecting one inch horizontally. These support the next projecting course of all stretchers in line with the next course of all headers with alternate headers projecting which supported the top course of all stretchers (now gone).
 - c. Eaves: The bargeboard on the gable end tapered towards the top (a characteristic of the area).
8. Decoration: A pentagonal datestone with brick-header surround in gable end over main entry of south facade. The pointed top of the stone follows the line of the slope of

the gable roof and on the stone surface is cut a crude compass rose with a north indication (i.e., North Star) and flanked by "N ... S," below which is "No. 30 N.C." (number thirty school district, New Castle County), below which is "1847."

9. Bell tower: There formerly was a square wooden bell tower with a pyramidal wooden shingle roof and narrow, pointed wooden pinnacle above, at the gable ridge.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The one floor is a rectangular area with a center doorway in the south side.
2. Flooring: Four inch tongue-and-groove yellow pine.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: Three-quarters of an inch of smooth concrete stucco applied directly on rubble and mortar walls and whitewashed. The ceiling is estimated from remnants to have been plaster on wooden lath nailed under 3" x 6" joists at 16" on center, which in turn are supported on a built-up center beam composed of a center 7" x 9" and two 3" x 6" side nailers.
4. Decorative features and trim: Six-inch wooden baseboard with beaded top; and three-and-a-half inch beaded wooden hanger strip at the height of six feet.
5. Lighting, type of fixtures: None.
6. Heating: No remaining indications of type.

- D. Site: The schoolhouse is set back from the intersection approximately fifty feet and at a level of approximately four feet above the present road surfaces with the center entry to the south.

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